

Effects of paraquat pot still mystery

By SUSAN OUDERKIRK
Of the Emerald

The U.S. government acknowledged Thursday the need for an environmental impact statement (EIS) to examine the hazards of paraquat-sprayed marijuana, according to Peter Meyers, chief counsel for the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws (NORML).

The outcome of the U.S. Federal District Court hearing was a court injunction on U.S. participation in the Mexican paraquat-spraying program until an EIS is drawn up and circulated delineating the hazards of paraquat-sprayed marijuana to public health.

"We're feeling good" about the outcome, Meyers said.

According to the Congressional Record, over the past three years, the U.S. government has provided the government of Mexico with millions of dollars — some \$40 million — for equipment and technical assistance related to paraquat spraying. But, because there are more than 15 million regular marijuana users in the United States and Mexican marijuana comprises about 60 percent of the hundreds of tons of marijuana brought into this country annually, the U.S. government is faced with a twin-edged blade.

The U.S. government is committed to a certain drug policy by law while at the same time, it's obligated by constitutional law to safeguard the health and welfare of all



Drawing by Jim Payne

American citizens — including dope smokers.

Paraquat has been used by the Mexican government since 1975 to eradicate illegal poppy and marijuana fields. It is considered a public health hazard by the University Drug Information Center (DIC). However, more research is needed to determine the full complexities of paraquat-sprayed marijuana before exact information about the health hazards can be known.

Mark Miller, the director of DIC, said "We have to admit that we know almost as much

as we don't know," of paraquat-related health hazards.

So far, research indicates heavy users of marijuana are most likely to become afflicted with effects of paraquat-sprayed marijuana. According to Miller, if a person smokes three to five joints a day for a period of three to five months, given heavily paraquat-contaminated marijuana, the irreversible development of clinically observable fibrosis in the lungs will occur.

Fibrotic tissue is scar-like tissue that inhibits oxygen transfer in the lungs. But,

Richard Hawks, project officer on paraquat research, does not think it has significant effect on lung function.

If a casual marijuana user were to smoke highly contaminated marijuana over a period of three to five months, microscopic (not clinically observable) fibrosis would occur. Miller compared this to the damage done to the lungs of a person living in a heavily industrialized polluted area. A casual user of marijuana is not considered at risk, according to Hawks research.

However, whatever the level of exposure to paraquat, there remains some unanswered questions that are important, Miller said. It is not known whether paraquat is carcinogenic (cancer producing) or not. Research so far indicates that it is possible for paraquat to cause carcinogenic effects. There is definite evidence from previous studies that paraquat is probably teratogenic.

What Miller is saying is that paraquat-contaminated marijuana is a definite hazard to public health. However, "it is not imminent and it is not imminently toxic," especially to casual marijuana users — it is just there. Miller urged people to have their marijuana analyzed. The paraquat contamination is something to be concerned about, he said, but "people won't die in the streets" from using tainted marijuana.

Marijuana diagnosis and further information can be obtained by contacting the University Drug Information Center at 1763 Moss St., or 686-5411.

SALSC: Redden decision 'expected'

The South African Liberation Support Committee (SALSC) says Attorney General James Redden's anti-divestment decision was "no surprise."

"Redden's opinion has clearly drawn the line between what is economically profitable and is what is morally right," says Jonathon Draper, spokesperson for SALSC.

The attorney general issued his formal opinion Tuesday, saying divestment would be in violation of Oregon Revised Statutes. "Redden is in a position where he must

protect corporate interests," Draper charges. "The only reason we're given by the attorney general against divestment is that even though he law is not correct morally, it makes good economics."

19 SALSC members were arrested for trespassing during a Jan. 25 "sit-in" at Johnson Hall protesting state retention of South African stocks.

Thus far, one member has been convicted of trespassing. SALSC plans to forfeit bail on the next two trials for Teresa Dach and Michelle Marie Bobzien. How-

ever, members hope to develop more student support for the fourth trial May 25.

Draper sees Redden's opinion as a spark for more divestment support.

"Although a lot of students don't agree with demonstrations, I believe almost all students identify with the effort to get rid of those stocks," Draper says. "The issue is far from over."

SALSC tentatively plans to join the PSAF-sponsored demonstration at the capital building in Salem May 19.

Tour to highlight Historic Preservation week

By KEVIN HARDEN
Of the Emerald

No one knows who designed and built the Soult-Westfall Duplex that now occupies the corner of 14th Avenue and Pearl Street. But, along with its unique styling and age, one thing is certain; the

house is considered part of Eugene's history.

The duplex, built in 1914, was the home of the Westfall and the Soult families after they moved to Eugene from Lancaster, Calif., five years earlier.

According to the Eugene Historical Review Board, the house is an

example of the Western Stick Style of architecture that was prevalent in Southern California about the time the Westfalls moved to the Northwest.

Now, 64 years later, the Soult-Westfall duplex is part of a week-long commemoration of National Historic Preservation week, which is scheduled to begin Sunday.

The duplex and 56 other historic sites in and around the Eugene are part of the commemoration that will include a bus tour, an old fashioned picnic, several exhibits of old photographs and por-

traits and nearly 25 movies that deal with historic landmark preservation.

The bus tour, which is set for May 13 from 10 a.m. to noon, will include historic sights ranging from the University's Millrace, Library and Art Museum to three cemeteries and several private homes.

The University's Villard and Deady Halls, part of the original campus built more than 100 years ago, are also included in the tour.

More than 20 films on historic subjects will be shown in Lane County's Harris Hall meeting

room, the Ebbert Memorial Church in Springfield and Lawrence Hall on campus.

The films have been chosen to highlight the week's activities and will include topics from preservation of historic buildings to trades and handicrafts that are disappearing in the face of new technology, the review board says.

The Historic Review Board was established three years ago to oversee the city's Historic Preservation Program. The board also acts as the policy-making body for establishing historic landmarks inside the city limits.

WHO'S BUD KRETSINGER AND WHY'S HE RUNNING FOR GOVERNOR?

ASUO open forum
Friday, May 5
EMU-11:30

come and talk with Bud!

RAY BRADLEY



FOR
CIRCUIT COURT
JUDGE

CURRENTLY

- EUGENE CITY COUNCIL VICE PRESIDENT
- HAS SUPPORTED HUMAN RIGHTS WHILE ON COUNCIL
- U. OF O. LAW AND M.A. GRADUATE

-Court Reform Through You-

Committee to Elect Raymond Bradley Circuit Judge.
Irene Miller, Treasurer, 2390 McMillan, Eugene, OR.